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MEMORIAL

OF THE

Patriotic League of the Revolution

TO THE

Fifty-Seventh Congress of the United States

For the Recognition of Services Rendered by

THEODORE R. TIMBY

The Inventor of the Revolving Turret

As used on the Monitor and all Battle-Ships from the Civil War to the Present Time

AND ALSO

The Inventor of Sighting, and Firing Heavy Guns with Electricity

As used in War-Ships throughout the world

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Hugh McCulloch says:

"But for the Navy, the rebellion would not have been overcome."

But for the Monitor there would have been no Navy.

But for Theodore R. Timby there would have been no Monitor.

There might have been other Capitalists,
There might have been other Engineers,
There might have been other Builders,
But there could be but one Inventor of the Revolving Turret.

See pages 5, 9, 11, & 15.

Return to Alfred King,
Arlington, New Jersey.

Theodore R. Timby, S. D., LL.D.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

Patriotic League of the Revolution

TO THE

FIFTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Honorable Senators and Members of the Fifty-seventh Congress of the United States:

GENTLEMEN:—

The Patriotic League of the Revolution begs to bring before you a case of vital interest to every American who loves justice and fair play.

The case referred to is that of Theodore R. Timby, the Inventor of the Revolving Turret of the famous Monitor.

Of all the achievements that have made this country great and glorious, there are *three* which stand out in high and bold relief, viz.: The victory of the little Monitor at Hampton Roads, the sinking of the Spanish fleet in Manilla Bay, and the final great naval victory at Santiago.

Gentlemen, to these three most momentous achievements of modern times, the people of the United States are primarily indebted to Theodore R. Timby,—as will be shown.

Ignorant as to the facts in this case, many of the present generation have accorded to

John Ericsson, the Swedish engineer, the honor of the invention of the Turreted Monitor.

One of the inconceivable things in this day of printing and telegraphy is, that it is possible to so blind the eyes of the great public, that an invention so closely allied to our very national life, could have been so shamefully misplaced.

But when the truth is known, the perpetuation of such an injustice and falsity, through the medium of our school text-books, is an unpardonable crime against history. The fact that our leading American cyclopedias give a full, detailed account, finely illustrated, of the distinguished American whose genius marked one of the most important epochs in Naval history, while the text-books of our schools and academies throughout the land not only ignore these facts, but give this honor to a foreigner, is a national disgrace.

Theodore R. Timby, a native of Dutchess County, New York, was a born inventor. When sixteen years of age, he invented the floating dry-dock. Then followed a device for raising sunken vessels. Later he invented the turbine water wheel, which was used all over the country, and was a financial success.

When but nineteen years of age, as he was crossing the ferry, on his way to Jersey City, he obtained a clear view of the old circular fort on Governor's Island, and at once his mind conceived the idea of an iron structure, circular in form, made to revolve on a vertical center, which would

By transfer
The White House.

make all of its guns available at any desired point on the horizon.

He at once made a simple drawing of a revolving battery, and went to Washington to lay his invention before the officials of the Government. This occurred in 1841.

He submitted his drawing to Senator John C. Calhoun, afterwards Secretary of State, who asked that a model be made.

In a few days the young inventor produced a small ivory model, representing the wonderful turret which was destined to play such an important part at the time when our nation's life was at stake.

On the 18th of January, 1843, Mr. Timby filed a caveat for the invention of the Revolving Turret, in the United States Patent office, paying his fee to the Government. (See illustration, Ivory Turret).

Later, Jefferson Davis became interested in the invention as a plan of national defense, but advised Mr. Timby to defer taking out the patent at that time, saying: "We are at peace with all the world, and have no need of war-ships."

Mr. Timby followed his advice, and kept the caveat alive.

In the spring of the same year, Mr. Timby sent by Caleb Cushing, our first Minister to China, a model of a floating device of the turret. (See illustration). On Mr. Cushing's return, about a year later, Mr. Timby received a complimentary acknowledgement of his model, from a Chinese War Mandarin.

About the middle of June of the same year, 1843, President Tyler and his Cabinet, on their way to celebrate the completion of the Bunker Hill monument, called at the Governor's room at City Hall, New York, and examined an expensive model of the Timby Turret.

The ordinance and engineer department did not take kindly to the invention. But a year or two later Mr. Timby succeeded in getting a mixed commission appointed to examine his invention of the turret. This commission consisted of General Bankhead, Chairman, and Colonel Thornton of the Army, and Joe Smith of the Navy. Thornton and Smith reported against the invention on account of the *cost of iron*. General Bankhead made a minority report in its favor.

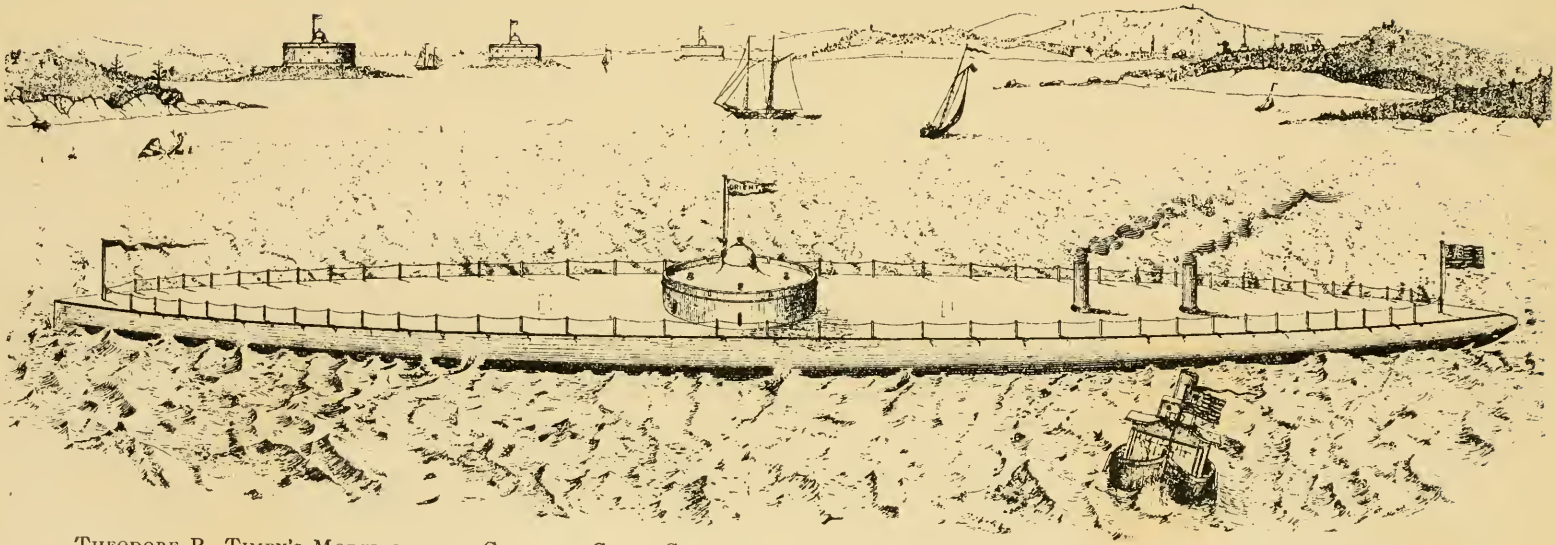
Mr. Timby was the first to advocate iron in construction of war-ships.

Convinced of the value of his turret, he never let a year go by without urging its adoption by the Government.

Other claims to his invention have been suggested; but his caveat ante-dates every other claim by thirteen years; and this fact was settled by the Patent Office in 1841.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, he took out letters patent covering the broad principle of the turret, whether used on land or water.

The year 1861 found us without a navy or any system of coast defense. Patriotic men of wealth saw the necessities of the hour; and the inventor



THEODORE R. TIMBY'S MODEL SENT TO CHINA BY CALEB CUSHING IN (1843), WHICH SUGGESTED TO J. ERICSSON THE *LOW FREEBOARD*.

This, as in all of the Timby Models, shows the pilot-house *on the turret*. The engineer of the Monitor, for some unaccountable reason, departed from this plan, and placed the pilot-house on the deck in the way of her own guns. All subsequent turrets, however, were according to the Timby plan.

of the turret succeeded in enlisting his friends, John F. Winslow and John A. Griswold, partners in business at Troy, N. Y., in the matter. They, with C. S. Bushnell of New Haven, Conn., came forward with the determination to build a war-ship on the turret system at their own risk.

For so doing, Winslow and Griswold furnished ninety per cent. of the $275,000, the cost of the Monitor, while Bushnell furnished ten per cent. of this sum. In this connection, Ericsson received, as a remuneration for his services as engineer, five per cent. of the gross receipts paid for the Monitor and other kindred vessels built by the Winslow, Griswold and Bushnell Company. Mr. Timby was paid a royalty of $5,000 for the use of his patented turret used on the Monitor and two other vessels built by said company. This royalty on three vessels was paid to him by his friends, and was all that he ever received from his great invention.

The Company, including the engineer, succeeded in gaining a contract with the Government; and the Monitor was built within a short space of one hundred days, the time demanded by the Government for its completion.

The Government paid for the Monitor $275,000. The actual cost being $195,000; thus leaving a good profit for the company.

You all know what followed. The first-class 40-gun, steam frigate, Merrimac, which by Captain McCauley's order had been scuttled, partly sunk and abandoned, fell an easy prey to the

Confederates. After being raised, and plated with railroad iron, her ends and sides were thoroughly shielded. When she went forth on her mission of destruction her work was terrible! She bore down on the Cumberland, sinking her, with one hundred men dead or dying on her deck. The Congress soon shared the same unhappy fate. Her commander and pilot, with nearly half her crew, were killed or wounded, while the white flag floated over her as a signal of surrender.

President Lincoln had convened his cabinet to talk over the gloomy situation. Secretary Stanton said, "The Merrimac will change the whole course of the war. She will destroy *seriatim* every naval vessel. She will lay all the cities on the seaboard under contribution. I shall immediately recall Burnside. Port Royal must be abandoned. I will notify the Government, and municipal authorities in the North, to take instant measures to protect their harbors. I have no doubt that the enemy is at this moment on her way to Washington, and it is not at all unlikely that we shall have a shell or a cannon ball from her guns, in the White House before we leave this room."

Captain John Marston, of the steam-ship Roanoke, in command of the fleet, learned from one of his lookout vessels that "the enemy was coming." But the machinery of the Roanoke was disabled, the Minnesota temporarily stranded, the Congress surrendered and on fire, while all that was left of the ill-fated Cumberland above the

water, was old glory streaming from her top-mast.

The crisis of the Civil War was at hand; and the cause of the Union never before seemed so hopeless. At this momentous hour, the little iron-clad Monitor, two guns, reached Fortress Monroe, and was immediately dispatched to the aid of the Minnesota, reporting to Captain Van Brunt, at two o'clock A. M. The world has never seen a greater "friend in need."

At six A. M., March 9th, 1862, the Confederate flotilla re-appeared "and the drums of the Minnesota beat to quarters."

Horace Greeley says, "Again all hands were called to quarters, and the Minnesota, opening with her stern guns, signalled the Monitor to attack, when the undaunted little 'cheese-box on a raft' steamed down upon the rebel Apollyon and laid her alongside, directly between the Minnesota and her assailant. Gun after gun from the Monitor, responded to with whole broadsides from the Merrimac, seemed to produce no more impression than a hail storm on a mountain-cliff; until, tired of thus wasting their ammunition, they maneuvered for a better position. In this, the Monitor being lighter and far more easily manageable than her foe, had the advantage; and the Merrimac disgusted, renewed her attention to the Minnesota, disregarding a broadside, which would have sunk any un-plated ship on the globe."

In this memorable fight, the Merrimac was disabled and withdrew, with her prow twisted, her anchor and flagstaff shot away, her smoke-stack and steam-pipe riddled, two of her crew killed and eight wounded, including her commander, Buchanan.

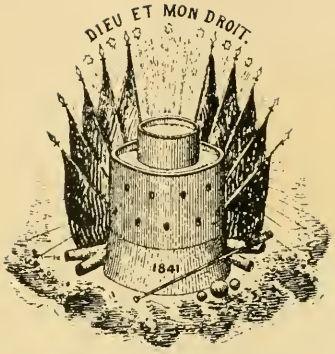
Our loss was probably 400 men, including 25 taken from the Congress and carried off by the gunboat.

All the world sounded the praises of the Monitor. Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury during the administrations of Lincoln, Johnson, and Arthur, writes, "But for the opportune arrival of the Monitor on the ninth of March, 1862, she would not only have given the possession of Hampton Roads to the Confederates, but every Northern sea-port might have been at her mercy.

"The fight between these two iron-clads was of momentous importance to the United States and the Confederate goverments; but its influence was not confined to them. It was felt by every naval power in the world. It made iron and steel substitutes for wood in the construction of ships of war. It rendered valueless fleets upon which countless millions had been expended. It revolutionized naval warfare. In its consequences, it was the most important of all naval battles. * * * * *

"I have always thought," continues McCulloch, "that this battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac was the most important single event of the war.

"If the Monitor had been destroyed or captured,



Ivory Model of the Turret made in 1841, now in possession of The Patriotic League of the Revolution.

NAVAL RECORDS

show that in the hundreds of turreted vessels constructed by our Government, fifty-five were built during the Civil War, from 1861 to 1865, thirteen of which were *double turreted.*

Yet for all of these turrets used by the Government, the Inventor and Patentee received nothing.

the Northern sea-ports would have been at the mercy of the Merrimac. The blockade would have been raised, the Southern sea-ports would have been opened to all the world. This would have been speedily followed by the recognition of the Confederacy as an independent state by France and England."

Gentlemen, the world owes that victory to Theodore R. Timby.

In the same eventful year, Mr. Timby invented the sighting and firing of guns by electricity; and our government granted him a patent for this invention July 8, 1862; No. 35,847.

The Department rejected it at the time, but since then it has been accepted by our Government and this invention is now used in every turret all over the world; yet the inventor has never received for its use, one penny.

John L. Worden, Commander of the Monitor, received a vote of thanks of Congress for his skill in that battle with the Merrimac. Through the Navy Department he also received the same distinguished recognition by Gideon Welles.

Ericsson, the engineer, has been eulogized in every land, and showered with honors that never belonged to him.

The heroes of Manilla and Santiago—even "the men behind the guns"—have been welcomed home with booming cannon, and the wildest enthusiasm. But the man who made all these victories possible, has never yet been recognized by the Federal Government.

It is true that the universities have given Mr. Timby the honorary degrees of Master of Arts, Doctor of Science, and Doctor of Laws.

The Legislature of his own State of New York, in 1890, passed a concurrent Resolution asking Congress to grant him national recognition.

General B. F. Tracy, ex-Secretary of the Navy, in a letter to Senator Chauncey M. Depew, February 13th, 1902, says, "From my examination of the evidence produced by Mr. Timby, I am satisfied that he has a just claim from our Government."

Gentlemen, what are those grand achievements at Hampton Roads, and Manilla, and Santiago *worth?* Can they be estimated in dollars and cents? Would this Government—for the consideration of billions of dollars—blot out those pages of American history? And yet, this man of exalted character, and recognized worth, who put the instruments of success into the hands of our Government, and made his country the envy of all other nations, has never received one cent from the Government in any way, shape, or form. All over the world, his turrets have been used for many years. His system of coast defense is the pride of more than one foreign government.

And the mighty guns which his genius taught to aim and fire with such deadly accuracy, have boomed their glorious welcome and honor to returning soldier, and foreign prince, but never a sound to salute this greatest hero of them all, who in his advancing years has been neglected and forgotten.

Gentlemen, shall the grandest service ever performed for this Republic, go longer unrewarded?

Lives there a patriot under the protection of our flag, who will stand idly by and see an alien bear off the honors that belong to an American citizen?

On this fortieth anniversary of the great battle at Hampton Roads,* we appeal to you in the name of this United Republic, for the recognition of one of its saviours.

For the sake of his children and grand-children, we appeal to you in the name of justice and honor.

We appeal to you in the interest of historical truth.

We appeal to you as patriots who are proud of American genius and valor.

We appeal to you as women *whose only civil power is in petition*, to RIGHT THIS GREAT WRONG.

Will you give this grand old hero, Theodore R. Timby, a national recognition and reward, for his great services, that he may spend the advancing years of his still active and useful life, in peace and happiness?

Then shall the false pages of history disappear, and the world shall emphasize the truth, that republics are *not* "ungrateful."

Respectfully submitted,

VIRGINIA CHANDLER TITCOMB,

President Patriotic League of the Revolution.

March 9, 1902.

* March 9.

No. 1. (Copy.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

To all Persons to whom these Presents shall come:

GREETING:

This is to certify that the annexed is a true copy from the Records of this Office of an Official Letter dated December 3, 1881.

In testimony whereof I, V. D. Stockbridge, Acting Commissioner of Patents, have caused the Seal of the Patent Office to be affixed this third day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and sixth.

V. D. STOCKBRIDGE,

[SEAL.] Acting Commissioner.

(Copy.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 3d, 1881.

THEO. R. TIMBY, ESQ., Care Knight Bros., Washington, D. C.

Sir: In compliance with your request of this date, you are respectfully informed that the records of this Office show that a Caveat was filed by you on January 18th, 1843, for a "Metallic Revolving Fort," to be used on land or water, and to be revolved by propelling engines located within the same and acting upon suitable mechanism. Respectfully,

M. SEATON,
Chief Clerk.

No. 2. (Copy.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

To all Persons to whom these Presents shall come:

GREETING:

This is to Certify That the annexed is a true copy from the Records of this Office of a certain portion of the Specification, in the matter of the Letters Patent granted Theodore R. Timby, September 30, 1862, ante-dated July 8, 1862, No. 36,593, for Improvement in Revolving Battery Tower.

In testimony whereof, I, V. D. Stockbridge, Acting Commissioner of Patents, have caused the Seal of the Patent Office to be affixed this eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and sixth.

[Seal.] V. D. STOCKBRIDGE,
Acting Commissioner.

THEODORE R. TIMBY, of Worcester, Mass., Letters Patent No. 36,593, dated September 30, 1862.
Impt. in Revolving Battery Tower.

Last 2 paragraphs of Spec.

Although I have described certain mechanism for effecting the revolution of the tower, yet this is only by way of illustration. I wish it to be distinctly understood, that I do not limit myself to any mechanical means for producing the revolution, nor to any form of tower, nor yet to the materials of which it may be constructed. But having described my invention and the manner in which it operates; and having pointed out one method of practically carrying it into effect,

What I claim therein as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is, a revolving tower for defensive and offensive warfare, whether on land or water.

Witnesses: THEODORE R. TIMBY.
EDW. F. BROWN,
J. W. SHUGERT,
Exd. H. M. H.
E. A. M.

Mr. Timby made every conceivable modification and improvement in his system of coast defense, which he patented, thus paying to the Government many thousands of dollars.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

IN SENATE.

ALBANY, April 24, 1890.

Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That in view of the valuable services of Theodore R. Timby, a native and for many years a resident of the State of New York, whose invention of the revolving turret gun battery, according to evidence laid before the Finance Committee of the Senate, appears to have led to the construction of the iron-clad Monitor, the Legislature of the State of New York regards it a fitting if not an imperative duty of Congress to make such investigation into the question of the authorship of the invention thereof as shall do ample justice in the premises and vindicate the genius that contributed so largely in rescuing the country from a grave peril during the darkest days of its existence.

By order,

JOHN S. KENYON,
Clerk.

IN ASSEMBLY,
May 2, 1890.

Concurred in without amedment.

By order of

C. A. CHICKERING,
Clerk.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SENATE, } *ss.:*

I have compared the preceeding copy of resolution with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal of office of the Clerk of the Senate, at the City of Albany, the 4th day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one.

[SEAL.]

JOHN S. KENYON,
Clerk of the Senate.

THE ABLEST EXPERT AUTHORITIES ON THE TIMBY SYSTEM.

Po'keepsie, N. Y., Sept. 12, 1885.

Mr. T. R. Timby:

Dear Sir: A thorough investigation of your new system of Coast Defense shows it to be not only invulnerable, but incomparably superior to the two-gun turret invented and patented by you, and first used on the *original "Monitor," built in 1862*, under the supervision of Capt. John Ericsson, Engineer, on a contract made with the United States Government by myself and others.

The advantages of your new system are—

First. Greater security to both guns and garrison.

Second. Greater rapidity of fire, and,

Third. Absolute accuracy of aim, all of which are indispensable in establishing absolute defense.

JOHN F. WINSLOW,
Contractor and Builder of the Monitor.

Washington, D. C., April 11, 1885.

A careful examination shows that the Timby System of sighting and firing heavy guns at long range makes one gun do the execution of fifty as they are now handled.

WM. W. BELKNAP,
Late Secretary of War.

Office of the Admiral,
Washington, D. C., June 19, 1885.

From observation and experience I can say that not more than one shot in sixty takes effect at two miles range, when fired by a shore battery in an engagement with a vessel moving.

After a careful examination of the plan of sighting and

firing guns in the "Timby System" of Coast Defense of 1885, I am of the opinion that seventy per cent. of the shots fired at long range should take effect upon an attacking vessel.

DAVID D. PORTER,
Admiral.

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* * * I think a Timby turret of proper thickness, armed with ten one-hundred ton guns, superior to ten of the heaviest iron clads that could be brought into the waters of the United States.

Respectfully submitted,
DAVID D. PORTER,
July 3, 1886. Admiral.

In this examination before the Sub-Committee of Appropriations, on July 1st, 1886, Admiral David D. Porter, U. S. Navy, said as follows:

"I attacked Fort Fisher, mounting seventy-four guns, with my fleet of fifty-five vessels, carrying four hundred and thirty guns (beside reserve), and opened fire at a range of three-fourths of a mile. We threw 54,000 shot and shell before we silenced the guns of the fort. Had we been using the Timby System we would have silenced these guns in fifteen minutes."

Question. "Admiral, suppose the fort had been defended by a ten-gun Timby battery, what would have been the result?"

Admiral Porter, "My fleet would have been whipped."

July 1, 1886. E. JOHN ELLIS.

No. 463 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.,
February 27, 1882.

In my judgment the adoption of the system of Coast Defense proposed by Mr. Timby would do much to settle the problem of national security against invasion by an enemy's fleet, for it possesses the advantage of being a

powerful element of defense, and one which cannot be neutralized as such by being placed in opposition hands. Any and all marine devices, be they ever so destructive, are at once neutralized as a defense if used by attacking forces.

H. W. SLOCUM,
Late M. C., late Maj.-General U. S. A.

I entirely concur in the above statement of Gen. H. W. Slocum.

J. N. BONAPARTE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 11, 1885.

ALFRED P. BOLLER,
Civil Engineer and Contractor,
71 BROADWAY.

NEW YORK, April 4, 1882.

T. R. TIMBY, A. M. S. D.

Dear Sir: I have carefully examined your system and plans of Coast Defense. I regard them as thoroughly practical, and would be very glad to contract with responsible parties to build one or more of these citadels, and would give ample security that they would yield all the results that are claimed for them by yourself.

Yours truly,
ALFRED P. BOLLER,

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, June 26, 1885.

THEODORE RUGGLES TIMBY, ESQ.,
1213 F St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: I thank you much for the opportunity, which you afforded me some weeks ago, for an examination of the drawings, specifications and models of your system of Coast and Harbor Defense.

A careful examination of all its details warrants the conclusion that in its ability to resist attack your fortification is simply invulnerable, while to a hostile fleet,

attempting to force a passage, its assault would be attended with immense destruction. * * *

I find nothing therein of an impracticable character in so far as construction and operation relate, nor anything which a first-class engineering works could not readily build.

I am very truly yours,

WILLIAM G. GIBBONS,

President "The Pusey & Jones Company."

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 27, 1885.

THEODORE R. TIMBY, ESQ.

Dear Sir: To be effective, as against heavy rifled guns, the *Monitor* turret must have been improved as much as the guns have been in the last twenty years. You have made that improvement.

W. A. BARTLETT,

Expert in Ordinance.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 8, 1885.

From an examination of the "Timby System" of Coast Defense, I am satisfied of its superiority over any other plan. JOHN L. WORDEN,

Commander of the Monitor,

Rear Admiral, U. S. N.

I concur in the above statement of Rear Admiral Worden. W. S. ROSECRANS,

Register U. S. Treasury, late Maj. Gen. U. S. A., and Engineer.

I am permitted to make the following extract from a private letter from Admiral Ammen:

T. R. T.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

AMMENDALE, July 30, 1886.

I quite subscribe to the expression of an eminent friend in relation to the Timby System of Coast Defense, that

the humanitarian should recognize in its adoption, the doing away in a great measure with attacks on harbors and cities by fleets.

Very sincerely yours,

DAN'L AMMEN,
Rear Admiral, U. S. N.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 2, 1885.

With the most powerful fleet I would not attempt to force a passage defended by such works as proposed by Mr. T. R. Timby.

S. B. LUCE,
Commodore U. S. Navy.

NEW YORK, 19th July, 1887.

I have carefully examined the plans of the "Timby System" of Coast Defense.

In my judgment, they are not only the most formidable, but in every respect the most desirable that have come to my notice, and in every way superior to the Coast Defense of the United Kingdom, or any others with which I am acquainted.

FRED'K T. WARBURTON,
Lieutenant Colonel, Retired Royal Engineers.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 1, 1885.

The "Timby System" of Coast Defense is, in my opinion, incomparably the best.

It affords greater security to both guns and garrison, and insures greater rapidity and accuracy of fire than any other known method of defense. A presiding officer, in the lookout of the turret, is enabled to sight and fire every gun with rapidity and effect, at any point on the horizon within range.

S. B. LUCE,
Commodore U. S. Navy.

HON. JOHN F. WINSLOW,

The principal contractor and builder of the original Monitor, in a letter to Mr. T. R. Timby, says:

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., March 21, 1889.

"T. R. TIMBY, ESQ.:

"*My Dear Sir:* * * * * * * *

"Because of your modesty in not saying a word about yourself and of the credit due to you for originating the Revolving Turret, to which all the honor belongs, and which was the central, crowning feature of the Monitor. * * * * * * * *

"The success achieved by the Monitor was due solely to the turret and her able commander, and that success would have been far more signal if the turret *had been mounted on an ordinary iron-clad ship.*

(Signed.) "JNO. F. WINSLOW."

CONTEMPORANEOUS LITERATURE IN EVIDENCE.

Harper's Monthly of January, 1863, pages 241 to 248, gives an account of "The Revolving Tower and its Inventor"—Theodore R. Timby—with five illustrations.

The Rev. John Todd, D.D., of Pittsfield, Mass., in a series of lectures to children, entitled, "Nuts for Boys to Crack," page 166; published by the American Tract Society, in 1866, under the caption of, "The Curious Little Work-shop," to which he likens Mr. Timby's brain, says: "In that little shop, the revolving turret of our iron-clad Monitor was first made—which perhaps, under God, has been the salvation of our country."

The New American Cyclopedia of 1864, pages 719 to 723, gives an illustrated account of Mr. Timby's invention.

All of the leading newspapers of that period give practically the same account, as do most of the cyclopedias that are considered reliable.

NEAL DOW.

The venerable statesman, General Neal Dow of Maine, in a letter to ex-Senator Pomeroy, under date of March 21, 1889, says:

"That Mr. Timby is the inventor of the Revolving Turret is certain; and I can see no sense or justice in giving to another the honor which belongs to him; on the contrary, he is entitled to the thanks of Congress and a pension of ten thousand dollars a year."

ADMIRAL DANIEL AMMEN.

Admiral Ammen says:—"To question Mr. Timby's claim as the inventor of the Revolving Turret as used on the Monitor, would seem like wilful ignorance."

EXTRACT FROM JAMES PARTON'S BOOK OF BIOGRAPHY ON THEODORE R. TIMBY.

Published in 1868, by A. S. Hale & Co., Hartford, Conn.

In "The People's Book of Biography—Lives of The Most Interesting Persons of All Ages and Countries," by James Parton, we find the names of Washington, John Adams, Galileo, Hernando Cortez, Thomas Jefferson, the two Catos, Peter the Great, Alexander Hamilton, La-Fayette, Theodore R. Timby, Julius Cæsar, Shakespeare, Lord Palmerston, Homer, and seventy other notables prominent in the world's history; published in 1868, (just after the Civil War.) In a four page sketch of Dr. Timby, the author says:

"THEODORE R. TIMBY."

"It is safe to say that not one in ten of the American people ever heard of the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this article. Still more certain is it that every American citizen is indebted to him for a service of the greatest importance. * * * * * *

"Who will ever forget that Sunday evening in March 1862, when an 'Extra' horrified us all with the intelligence that the long derided iron-clad monster, Merrimac, had 'come out,' at last and sunk the Congress, captured and burnt the Cumberland, and driven the Minnesota aground and thrown shot into the camp at Newport News. * * * * * * * * * * *

"But oh, the relief when we seized the papers the next morning and read the strange tale of the Monitor's interposition; how a 'small raft with a cheese box on it' had come between the Merrimac and her helpless prey, the grounded Minnesota, and after a four-hour fight had driven the Monster off disabled! If on that day I could have gone downtown and pointed out to the crowd in Wall Street the man in whose brain the idea of the Monitor originated; or still better, if I could have taken him on board the rescued Minnesota, would it not have required all the spell of discipline to prevent

the sailors from hugging him to within an inch of his life? I have the honor of presenting this gentleman to the reader: Theodore R. Timby is his name. He is a a native of Dutchess County in the State of New York.

* * * * * * *

"Strange to relate, this invention was twenty years old when the war broke out, and Mr. Timby's invention had slumbered for a period of eighteen years. The arrow had remained in the national quiver all that time, to be drawn forth at a critical moment, and used with an effect that astonished all the world.

"Theodore R. Timby was born in 1822, a farmer's son, educated in the public schools of his native State, and was an inventor from childhood. At the age of sixteen he made one of the most brilliant inventions of our age, that of the floating dry-dock. * * * * A model made at Syracuse was brought to New York, where it was exhibited to President Tyler in the Governor's room in the City Hall in the month of June of 1843. The invention was admired by all. * * * * In 1843, Mr. Timby could get no officials to urge the adoption of his invention. * * * * In 1848, he made such progress as to get a committee appointed to examine his plans and models; one member of this committee was Jefferson Davis. These gentlemen joined the Chief of Ordnance in reporting favorably upon the invention to Mr. Marcy, the Secretary of War, and there the matter rested. * * * * Mr. Timby then went to France and submitted his plans to Louis Napoleon. He had no better success in Paris than in Washington.

"Never did he cease to meditate and improve upon his original conception. * * * * When the war broke out in 1861, he felt that the time had come. * * * * The value of the idea was not fully recognized. It was not until the immortal Monitor had done her glorious work in Hampton Roads a year later that Mr. Timby's invention was hailed throughout the

world as a most important addition to the art of war. * * * * * * *

"His claim to the invention was not disputed, nor could it be. * * * * * * *

"The only safeguard our cities have is the fleet of turreted iron-clads, which originated in the ingenious brain of Theodore R. Timby. Whether these are sufficient, without the aid of iron-clad forts on land, is a question the solution of which ought not to be left until we are again involved in war."

The following letter is also significant:

"New York, August 23, 1890.

"*My Dear Mr. Timby*—I am reminded of you to-day by the fact, that our nation is paying marked honor to the dust of one who made his name illustrious by usurping honor which rightfully belonged to you, but to which the American people at large, including men in public life, seem to have been totally blind. I refer, of course, to Ericsson and to the name and fame he gained by being the builder, and supposed inventor of the Monitor, which in the supreme moment of our Navy's peril proved its superiority by disabling and silencing what was considered by our then enemy to be an impregnable and irresistible antagonist, and which had proved its ability to rout and destroy any war vessel then known.

"Had this great nation known that Ericsson was only employed by the contractors who built the Monitor, as an engineer, and that the revolving turret which destroyed the Merrimac was your invention, the result to Ericsson would have been different, and the name of Timby would have been lauded instead of his.

"To-day, this country, at great expense and with the highest honor ever paid to any individual in obscure life, returns to Sweden, his native land, the body of Ericsson, eulogizing him as the inventor and builder of the Monitor—that 'cheese box on a raft,' as it was called, the formidable part of which, the 'cheese box,' was your invention. While the 'raft,' which proved to be of faulty construction, was his.

"Where you are to-day I know not, but I address my letter to the Ebbett House, Washington, so as to assure you that you have the sympathy of at least one native American because of the wrong they did you, and the expression of his hope that this wrong may be righted, and that the name of Theodore Ruggles Timby may have its rightful place in history.

"Let me hear from you. Sincerely your friend,

"ROBERT F. BROOKE,

"121 Clymer Street, Brooklyn."

Admiral Braine while leading the procession which followed John Ericsson's body to the United States cruiser that carried his remains to Sweden, said to his companion:

"*We are honoring the wrong man.*"

James G. Blaine, on the day before his last nomination for the Presidency of the United States said:

"That nothing has been done in recognition of Mr. Timby's great services to this country, is a *National disgrace.*"

(Copy.)

General Benjamin F. Tracy writes as follows:

"New York, February 13, 1902.

"Hon. Chauncey M. Depew, Washington, D. C.

"*My Dear Senator Depew:* "Mrs. Virginia C. Titcomb, of Brooklyn, New York, is anxious to secure your assistance in a matter of patriotism and justice, and I venture to give her this letter to you.

"Mrs. Titcomb is the representative of a large company of patriotic women in Brooklyn, who are striving to do tardy justice to an American inventor who has rendered great service to the nation.

"From my examination of the evidence produced by Dr. Timby, I am satisfied that he has a just claim for compensation from our Government.

"Very truly yours,

(Signed) "B. F. TRACY."

RESOLUTION OF THE PATRIOTIC LEAGUE OF THE REVOLUTION.

May 7, 1900.

Whereas, The Legislature of the State of New York has investigated Theodore R. Timby's claim to the invention of the Revolving Turret used on the Monitor, and other Turret ships of our Navy, and has memorialized Congress by passing a concurrent resolution to that effect; and

Whereas, The said Theodore R. Timby invented and patented the firing of guns by electricity, both inventions of which have been of incalculable service to the United States; and

Whereas, The said Timby's claim is recognized by all who have investigated it; now therefore, we, the Patriotic League of the Revolution, do most earnestly join in asking that ample justice be done the said Theodore R. Timby, by the Congress of the United States, in some fitting act or expression.

We heartily endorse the action of the Patriotic League of the Revolution, and join in the petition that justice be done our countryman.

(Signed)

Eugenia Washington, Founder of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mary Desha, Founder of the D. A. R.

Susan R. Hetzel, Historian General of the D. A. R.

Cornelia C. Fairbanks, President General, National Society, D. A. R.

Althea Randolph Bedel, Vice-President General (New Jersey), National Society, D. A. R.

Mary S. Lockwood, State Regent, D. C.

Ellen M. Cotton, Vice-President General, (California), National Society, D. A. R.

CO-OPERATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

At the last session of the Continental Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the following resolution was passed:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 22, 1902.

Whereas, The Patriotic League of the American Revolution is engaged in the correction of inaccuracies of the history of the United States, as taught in all of our schools and academies: therefore be it

Resolved, That the Daughters of the American Revolution co-operate with the Patriotic League of the Revolution in this important work.

Presented by Mrs. Titcomb of New York.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON, March 21, 1902.

Madam: Receipt is acknowledged, with your letter of the 15th instant, of the memorial to Congress prepared by yourself as President of the Patriotic League of the Revolution, and endorsed by several officers and prominent members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the purpose of which is to secure recognition of Theodore R. Timby as the inventor of the revolving armored turret, first used on the "Monitor" during the War of the Rebellion, and now extensively used on ships and in fortifications, and fitting compensation to Mr. Timby for the benefits that have resulted to the country by reason of his invention.

The subject of the memorial is an interesting and important one, and as the circumstances recited by you are so much at variance with the accepted version of the origin of the "Monitor," the matter is worthy of investigation in order that justice may prevail.

The course adopted by the League, that is, of requesting action by the Congress, is the proper one, as the question involved is of a kind that could not be considered by the executive branch of the Government, nor, owing to the Statute of Limitations, be settled by the courts.

I wish you and your associates speedy success in the effort to have the truth in regard to this matter established.

Very respectfully,

JNO. D. LONG,

Secretary.

Mrs. VIRGINIA CHANDLER TITCOMB,

No. 101 Lafayette Avenue,

Brooklyn, N. Y.

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